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# Stein Club's banning stirs controversy

By Tom St. Amand  
Staff Writer

A decision by Director of York Complex Greg Stone forbidding gay dances in the Ram's Horn resulted Monday in a meeting of Wilde Stein officers, Director of Residential Life Ross Moriarty and Vice President for Student Affairs Thomas Aceto.

Wilde Stein spokesman Marty Sabol said the meeting had been requested to get a policy decision on the use of the Ram's Horn for gay functions.

The club held two dances at the

Ram's Horn last semester after getting permission from Stone. In January a third dance was held, but club members were told by Stone they could no longer use the Ram's Horn because of the "gay stigma" they would create.

Stone said the decision to bar the club's use of the Ram's Horn was made with economics and his responsibility to York Complex in mind.

He had given permission to use the building for gay dances but said his understanding was they would be held just twice a semester.

"They were having them once a month," Stone said. "What I tried for was to have them space them out."

Stone said the club's frequent use of the Ram's Horn turned students away.

"It's the stigma that gets created," Stone said. "People begin to see it as a place where gay people were and started to say, 'Well I don't want to use it.'"

"That's a space they should use."

Another factor in Stone's decision was that the club had many off-campus members who were allowed to use a building on-campus students paid to maintain. The club paid no rental fee when the building was used.

After informing the club of his decision Stone offered the use of another site for dances.

"They weren't interested in the York Dining Commons which was my alternate offer," Stone said.

Marty Sabol said the club refused Stone's offer of the dining commons because the safety and anonymity of the people attending gay dances had to be considered.

"We specifically need to use the Ram's Horn," Sabol said. "We have to deal with harassment."

"Many of the students who come to the dances are not out and can't risk the exposure," Sabol said. "All of the dining commons are out in the open. Students are gonna find more opportunities to harass us."

Another Wilde Stein member said vandalism to gays' cars and "fag-mashing" have occurred at past dances.

Sabol said though the club doesn't have a recorded membership, he knows

most of the gays attending the dances live on campus.

"Three of our five officers live on-campus," Sabol said. "There are students in York Complex who are gay who come to our dances."

Sabol said the club is willing to pay for use of the Ram's Horn, but doesn't think it's necessary because it is a student organization.

After Stone had denied use of the Ram's Horn the club went to Ross Moriarty for help and an agreement was made that allowed one gay dance per month provided the Ram's Horn was available. The building could not be booked more than two months in advance.

In February the club was denied a date to use the building and Moriarty stood behind Stone's decision.

A meeting was called for including the club's faculty advisor Professor of Education Stan Freeman.

Sabol quoted Moriarty as saying, maybe the Wilde Stein Club just shouldn't have dances, during that meeting.

It was resolved that Freeman and Moriarty would meet with student representatives from York Complex to discuss the situation, and Aceto would make a decision after hearing both sides of the argument.

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